

Message Text

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INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MILITARY DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR NIGER

REFERENCE: (A) NIAMEY 1795; (B) NIAMEY 1856; (C) STATE
121541; (D) NIAMEY 1879

SUMMARY: AID/W HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM GOVERNMENT OF
NIGER (GON) TO PROVIDE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES TO ASSIST
IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN ARRONDISSEMENTS (DISTRICTS)

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OF MAINE-SOROA (2100-2200T), TESSAOUA (500-600T), AND

DAKORO (1400-1500T). PRIOR TO THIS REQUEST, OFFERS OF MILITARY CONVOY ASSISTANCE BY THE NETHERLANDS AND CANADA WERE REJECTED. CURRENTLY, TRUCK TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE TO GON IS SLATED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE FAO OFFICE OF SAHEL RELIEF OPERATIONS (OSRO) MEETING TO BE HELD IN ROME JUNE 17-18. ON A CONTINGENCY PLANNING BASIS AID/W REQUESTS INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY AND POSSIBLE USE OF 12 EACH FIVE TON OR 20 EACH TWO AND ONE-HALF TON MILITARY 4 TO 6 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES TOGETHER WITH REQUIRED SUPPORTING VEHICLES, MAINTENANCE FACILITY AND PERSONNEL TO MEET FOOD MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS IN NIGER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AREA SURROUNDING MAINE-SOROA WILL REQUIRE FOOD DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE ESTIMATED TO AMOUNT TO 2100-2200 TONS. THE AREA SURROUNDING TESSAOUA WILL REQUIRE FOOD DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE ESTIMATED TO BE 500-600 TONS AND

THE AREA SURROUNDING DAKARO WILL NEED 1400-1500 TONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS ARE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1974.

2. IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE TWO SEPARATE UNITS OPERATING DURING THE PERIOD. ONE UNIT CONSISTING OF EITHER SIX (6) EACH FIVE TON TRUCKS OR TEN (10) EACH TWO AND ONE-HALF TON TRUCKS WOULD SERVICE THE AREA SURROUNDING MAINE-SOROA. THE SECOND UNIT DEPLOYING THE SAME NUMBER AND TYPE OF VEHICLES WOULD SERVICE FIRST THE TESSAOUA AREA AND THEN MOVE TO AND SERVICE THE DAKARO AREA. BOTH UNITS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED SUPPORT VEHICLES, I.E., A SHOP VAN FOR SPARE PARTS/MAINTENANCE, AND ONE-QUARTER TON VEHICLE FOR CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES AND A WRECKER. AS FUEL AND OIL SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE, TANKER TRUCKS NOT NECESSARY. ONE DRIVER PER VEHICLE WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A LOCAL MAN IN NIGER TO BE TRAINED IN DRIVING VEHICLES.

3. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THESE VEHICLES BE PROCURED IN EUROPE, POSSIBLY KAISERLAUTERN, AND BE DRIVEN TO A PORT SUCH AS MARSEILLES. THEY WOULD BE SURFACE SHIPPED ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA TO ALGIERS OR ORAN. FROM ALGIERS OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORAN THEY WOULD CONVOY SOUTH USING THE ALL-WEATHER ROAD ACROSS THE SAHARA FROM ALGERIA TO NIGER. ON THIS PART OF THE TRIP, BEING EMPTY, THEY COULD CARRY THE NECESSARY OIL FUEL AND FOOD SUPPLIES WITH THEM. IT IS ESTIMATED, DEPENDENT UPON SHIPPING CAPABILITY, THAT SUCH CONVOY WOULD REQUIRE FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN DAYS FROM GERMANY AND SHOULD, BARRING UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTY, COMPLETE THE DELIVERY MISSION BY THE END OF OCTOBER. UPON COMPLETION OF THE

MISSION, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THESE VEHICLES WOULD BE
TURNED OVER TO GON.

4. AID/W ON CONTINGENCY REPEAT CONTINGENCY BASIS ASKS
WHETHER SUCH A TASK FORCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AND AN
ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF SUCH A MISSION. DECONTROL JUNE 30,
1974. SISCO

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